

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of **STIRLING COUNCIL** held under the provisions of Stirling Council's Standing Order No. 10 (c) and Paragraph 2(1) (b) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING** on **THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2009** at **6.30pm**.

Present:

Provost Fergus WOOD (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY
Councillor Alistair BERRILL
Councillor Margaret BRISLEY
Councillor Ian BROWN
Councillor Callum CAMPBELL
Councillor Scott FARMER
Councillor Tony FFINCH
Councillor Colin FINLAY
Councillor David GOSS
Councillor John HENDRY

Councillor Graham HOUSTON
Councillor Graham LAMBIE
Councillor Alasdair MacPHERSON
Councillor Corrie McCHORD
Councillor Colin O'BRIEN
Councillor Paul OWENS
Councillor Steven PATERSON
Councillor Graham REED
Councillor Andrew SIMPSON
Depute Convenor Jim THOMSON

In Attendance:

David Cameron, Director of Children's Services
Claire Dunbar, Committee Officer, Corporate Services
Liz Duncan, Acting Solicitor to the Council
Janice Hewitt, Director of Community Services
Bob Jack, Director of Corporate Services
Fiona Macleod, Head of Governance/Clerk to the Council (Clerk)
Rebecca Maxwell, Assistant Chief Executive
Kevin Robertson, Head of Performance, Resources & Waste, Environment Services
Willie Watson, Head of Resources, Corporate Services
Keith Yates, Chief Executive

SC327 CLOSURE OF CARE HOMES

Motion

“That the Council cancels its plan to close care homes at Beech Gardens and Wellgreen.”

Moved by Councillor Corrie McChord, seconded by Councillor Ian Brown

Amendment

“That Council resolves:

- (a) that no care home will be closed without proper consultation;
- (b) that no care home resident will be moved without their agreement;

Council believes that the current balance of social care in Stirling is unsustainable, inefficient and fails to deliver the care that people want.

Council reaffirms its intention to move as quickly as possible to shift the balance of social care significantly away from residential care to care at home and therefore instructs that officers should continue to work towards a significant reduction in residential care and increase in care at home over the next few years.

Council recognises that this is a challenging agenda and that there will inevitably be concern on the part of residents, relatives, carers and staff about any changes to current arrangements. However, Council believes that with proper planning and consultation, the process of change can be sensitively managed so as to address concerns.”

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, seconded by Councillor Steven Paterson

The Leader of the Administration and the Leader of the Conservative Group apologised for the anxiety caused by the proposal to close the care homes at Beech Gardens and Wellgreen before proper consultation had been carried out.

There was discussion on the need to change the balance and standard of social care and to develop long term care strategies for the growing elderly population within increasingly limited resources.

On the roll being called, the Members present voted as follows:-

For the Amendment (7)

Councillor Scott Farmer
Councillor Graham Houston
Councillor Graham Lambie
Councillor Alasdair MacPherson
Councillor Steven Paterson
Depute Convenor Jim Thomson
Provost Fergus Wood

Against the Amendment (14)

Councillor Neil Benny
Councillor Alistair Berrill
Councillor Margaret Brisley
Councillor Ian Brown
Councillor Callum Campbell
Councillor Tony Ffinch
Councillor Colin Finlay
Councillor David Goss
Councillor John Hendry
Councillor Corrie McChord
Councillor Colin O'Brien
Councillor Paul Owens
Councillor Graham Reed
Councillor Andrew Simpson

The Amendment fell by 14 votes to 7 votes

Decision

The Motion was approved without the need for a roll call vote, and accordingly the Council agreed to cancel its plan to close care homes at Beech Gardens and Wellgreen.

SC328 SCRUTINY INTO COMMUNITY SERVICES LONG TERM CARE STRATEGY

Motion

“That the Council appoints four members to a four-party scrutiny group to consider and prepare options for a long term care strategy in the Stirling Council Area. That full terms of reference for the scrutiny panel will be brought back to the next statutory Council meeting – taking cognisance of :

- a) the future care needs of the elderly population of Stirling.
- b) the way in which we deliver these care needs for our elderly population.
- c) current and future practice in terms of looking after people in their own homes.
- d) how best to manage the transition to any new model of care provision.
- e) the financial situation.”

Moved by Councillor Graham Reed, seconded by Councillor Alistair Berrill

Amendment

“That the Council:-

1. appoints four members to a four-party scrutiny group to consider and prepare options for a long term care strategy in the Stirling Council Area. That full terms of reference for the scrutiny panel will be brought back to the next statutory Council meeting – taking cognisance of :

- a) the future care needs of the elderly population of Stirling.
 - b) the way in which we deliver these care needs for our elderly population.
 - c) current and future practice in terms of looking after people in their own homes.
 - d) how best to manage the transition to any new model of care provision.
 - e) the financial situation.
2. acknowledges the extensive work already undertaken in this area (for example the report on the Multi-Agency Inspection of Older People's Services in Forth Valley (MAISOP), the Social Work Inspection Agency – Self Evaluation Questionnaire, the Social Care Change Programme) and agrees that in carrying out the review exercise, this should be the starting point for the Scrutiny Panel, and
 3. agrees that the Scrutiny Panel be required to bring forward its final report, with recommendations, to Council on 25 June 2009.”

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, seconded by Councillor Steven Paterson

The proposer and seconder of the Motion agreed to withdraw the Motion and support the terms of the Amendment.

Suggestions were made that the scrutiny should be informed by, amongst others, the Older People's Reference Group, the lay members of the Community Health Partnership, Trade Unions and CARE.

Decision

The Amendment was unanimously approved without the need for a roll call vote, and accordingly the Council agreed:-

1. to appoint four members to a four-party scrutiny group, comprising Councillor Neil Benny, Councillor Ian Brown, Councillor John Hendry and Councillor Graham Houston, to consider and prepare options for a long term care strategy in the Stirling Council Area. That full terms of reference for the scrutiny panel would be brought back to the next statutory Council meeting – taking cognisance of :
 - f) the future care needs of the elderly population of Stirling.
 - g) the way in which we delivered these care needs for our elderly population.
 - h) current and future practice in terms of looking after people in their own homes.
 - i) how best to manage the transition to any new model of care provision.
 - j) the financial situation.
2. to acknowledge the extensive work already undertaken in this area (for example the report on the Multi-agency Inspection of Older People's Services in Forth Valley (MAISOP), the Social Work Inspection Agency – Self Evaluation Questionnaire, the Social Care Change Programme) and agree that in carrying out the review exercise, this should be the starting point for the Scrutiny Panel, and

3. that the Scrutiny Panel be required to bring forward its final report, with recommendations, to Council on 25 June 2009.

The Provost declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

